

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

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R 192332Z APR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:ELAB, LE

SUBJ STRIKE AT ALICO

REF: BEIRUT 4498

1. ALICO'S BOARD CHAIRMAN COX CALLED AT DEPARTMENT TODAY TO DISCUSS ALICO SITUATION PRIOR DEPARTURE THIS WEEK-END FOR BEIRUT. HIS REVIEW OF SITUATION ACCORDED WITH THAT SET FORTH IN REFTEL.

2. COX SAID HE IS READY TO NEGOTIATE WITH LEBANESE IN GOOD FAITH BUT WILL NOT AGREE TO TAKE BACK DISMISSED LEBANESE LAWYER AND PLANS TO ANNOUNCE INTENTION TO DISMISS ADDITIONAL REDUNDANT EMPLOYEES (ABOUT 5 IN NUMBER) DURING VISIT. COX INDICATED MUCH WOULD DEPEND ON HIS ESTIMATE OF STATON'S CONDUCT; IF STATON HAS MADE SERIOUS MISTAKES, HE WILL BE REPLACED, BUT IF HE HAS MERELY CARRIED OUT COMPANY POLICY BY MAKING PERSONNEL REDUCTIONS, COX WOULD BACK HIM. COX TERMED LEBANESE ACTION VIRTUALLY EQUIVALENT OF NATIONALIZATION INASMUCH AS IT REPRESENTS DIRECT GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE IN RUNNING OF ORGANIZATION. AS SUCH CANNOT BE TOLERATED AND GOL WILL BE SO INFORMED. COX SAID HE IS PREPARED TO CLOSE DOWN REGIONAL OFFICE IF SATISFACTORY ACCORD CANNOT BE

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REACHED WITH GOL.

3. DEPTOFFS REVIEWED SHAKY DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION IN LEBANON AND ITS IMPACT ON GOL ACTION IN ALICO CASE. WE

SAID COX WOULD BE BEST PLACED TO JUDGE STATON'S ACTIONS AFTER ON-THE-SPOT REVIEW IN BEIRUT AND WE UNABLE COMMENT ON THIS ASPECT OF PROBLEM. SAID, HOWEVER, WE HOPED COX WOULD KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH EMBASSY, WHICH HE AGREED DO. COX SAID HE WILL BE ARRIVING BEIRUT APRIL 20 OR 21.
RUSH

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